

REMARKS

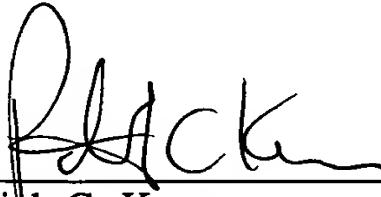
Allowed claims 1-17 remain pending in the application. In the Patent Office Communication dated October 28, 2004, the Examiner has requested that the Preliminary Amendment, previously submitted in proper format, be resubmitted in compliance with revised Patent Office rules. This request is deemed improper, as the Preliminary Amendment in its original form, having been submitted correctly, should have been acceptable to the Patent Office. However, as a matter of courtesy to the Examiner, and to expedite allowance of the present application, the Preliminary Amendment has been resubmitted in accordance with new Patent Office rules. If there are remaining questions regarding the Amendment, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted at the number shown below.

The present application is considered to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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